

REMARKS

In response to the final Official Action of October 27, 2006, minor amendment has been made in the specification at pages 9 and 11. In particular, the interworking function (IWF) is previously identified with reference numeral 31 and consequently the numeral 31 should immediately follow the acronym IWF rather than where it was originally shown on page 9, line 23.

On page 11, line 20, it is the signal processing unit that receives an invocation of a call hold service and consequently, the service control unit was improperly identified at this line. It is clear from the description and accompanying figures 2 and 3, that the signal processing unit rather than the signaling control unit receives such an invocation of a call hold service. No new matter is presented.

With respect to the claims, claims 1, 22 and 31-34 have been slightly amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention in a manner which is believed to clearly distinguish the claimed invention over the cited art. The amendment to the claims makes clear that resynchronization attempts towards one of the call parties and a related timer are stopped when the call is in a call hold condition. The purpose for this feature is in order to prevent a call failure as clearly recited in the amended claims. Support for this amendment is found in the original specification and figures of the application as filed, including page 11, line 29 through page 12, line 9 and accompanying Figures 2 and 3. For the reasons set forth below, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is distinguished over US patent 5,903,851, Bäckström, further in view of US patent 6,539,237, Sayers, et al (hereinafter Sayers) and further in view of US patent 6,088,600, Rasmussen.

Overview of Claim 1

Amended claim 1 encompasses the embodiment of the present invention as shown in Figures 2 and 3 and as described in the specification, including page 10, line 33 through page 12, line 9. A call hold supplementary service is described therein. The method comprises monitoring on a signaling path between end terminals via a telecommunication network a negotiation signaling for a multimedia call of respective call parties, wherein the monitoring is executed in an interworking function portion of one of the end terminals. This is shown by monitoring unit (34) of Figure 2 forming part of interworking function (31) of one of the end terminals. The method further comprises storing connection information detected in said monitoring, such as storing such information in memory (35) with said connection information defining at least one of a protocol used in the multimedia call between said call parties and a transcoding parameter used in the multimedia call.

Further, the method uses the detected connection information to generate a signaling towards at least one of said end terminals to establish a supplementary call service when the supplementary call service is invoked by one of the call parties, wherein the supplementary call service is a call hold supplementary service.

Finally, the method establishes that when the call is in a call hold condition, resynchronization attempts toward one of the call parties is stopped, as well as stopping a related timer in order to prevent a call failure. These actions are fully supported in Figure 3 and the above-recited portions of the specification.

The Office asserts at page 5 of the final Action that Rasmussen discloses the feature of stopping resynchronization attempts towards one of said call parties and stopping a related timer in order to prevent a call failure (citing column 6, lines 11-53 and columns 4, lines 35-63 respectively). However, it is noted that Rasmussen is silent

about a supplementary call service as defined in amended claim 1. In particular, Rasmussen does not describe a call hold condition as such, but merely an active state or an inactive state. Thus, at column 4, lines 35-38, it states "As long as cellular modem 100 detects data activity, cellular modem 100 remains in an 'active state.' Otherwise, cellular modem 100 switches to an 'inactive state.'" However, the call hold supplementary service claimed in amended claim 1 is not used for obtaining an inactive state of the mobile as a whole, but rather only for one connection; such as a multimedia call, when the mobile station is still in an active state, for example, to allow the origination or termination of other calls. This is specifically described in the present application at page 2, line 26 through page 3, line 5.

Therefore, it would not be obvious to combine the recited measures in Rasmussen being related to an inactive state with a call hold supplementary service as disclosed and claimed in the present invention, including amended claim 1.

Furthermore, Rasmussen does not describe the active stopping of a resynchronization attempt or a related timer as required by amended claim 1. In particular, Rasmussen describes that the modem waits for signaling in order to switch to an active state when a so-called quick re-train procedure is performed (see Rasmussen column 6, lines 29-53). It is described that in order to avoid a delay caused by the re-train procedure, the modem can be periodically powered up so as to perform a quick re-train while in the inactive state in order to resynchronize the modem (see Rasmussen column 6, lines 38-42).

In particular, Rasmussen does not disclose that any re-synchronization attempt has to be stopped while in the inactive state or that a related timer is to be stopped. Rather, Rasmussen defines that it would be advantageous to periodically perform resynchronization attempts, thus leading away from the claimed feature in amended claim 1 to explicitly stop any such resynchronization attempts.

It should further be noted that since the modem disclosed in Rasmussen is in an inactive state when no communication at all is present, there would be no reason for such stopping of resynchronization as required in the present invention as claimed, as there can be no further active connection which could be disturbed by such a resynchronization attempt such as would be found in the case of a call hold supplementary service of the present invention.

Therefore, the requirement of amended claim 1 that the resynchronization is stopped, as well as stopping of the related timer when the call is in a call hold condition, is neither disclosed nor suggested by Rasmussen.

It is therefore clear that amended claim 1 which requires stopping of the resynchronization attempts when the call hold condition is present and not when the mobile is in an inactive state, fully distinguished the present invention from Bäckström, Sayers and Rasmussen.

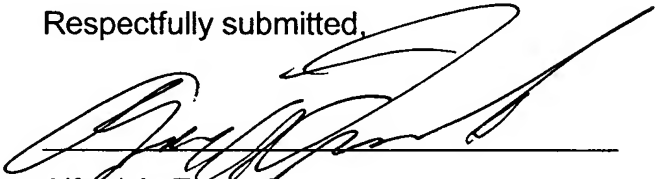
Similar amendment has been made to independent apparatus claim 22, independent method claim 31, independent apparatus claim 32, independent apparatus claim 33, and independent apparatus claim 34. For the same reasons as presented above, each of these additional independent claims is believed to be distinguished over Bäckström, Sayers and Rasmussen.

Since claim 1 is believed to be distinguished over the cited art, it is respectfully submitted that the claims dependent thereon are further distinguished over the cited art.

Similarly, since apparatus claim 22 is believed to be distinguished over the cited art, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims thereto are further distinguished over the cited art.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alfred A. Fressola', is written over a horizontal line.

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